

for the good works of the AGBU, for Armenian education and culture, and for all people great and small in America and throughout the world. Before making his formal remarks, the Catholicos prayed for the souls of the 230 persons who had tragically lost their lives the previous day in the TWA plane crash. Fr. Zaven Arzumanyan of Florida read the Epistle and Archbishop Karekin Nersesian of Armenia chanted the Gospel. Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian recited the "Christos vorti."

The Catholicos chose for the scriptural theme of his address a reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew 26:31-46. "'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.' Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?' And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'" Surely, said the Catholicos, this exemplifies the life of Mr. Alex Manoogian.

At the end of the funeral, His Holiness the Catholicos united the mourners in inviting all of them to join in the singing of the *Hayr Mer*. (the Lord's Prayer). As the pipe organ soared, the voice of the congregation filled the cavernous church with brilliant song with testified to the faith and hope of the people.

The clergy and the congregation marched in solemn procession from the church into the Armenian Cultural Building for the memorial meal which was attended by nearly 1,000 mourners. His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian give the invocation. Loving comments on the personal life of Mr. Manoogian were made by Mrs. Louise Simone, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and Mr. Richard Manoogian, Chairman of the Board of MASCO Corporation, Mr. Manoogian's daughter and son.

Mr. Gagik Haroutunian delivered the condolences of His Excellency Levon Ter Petrosian, president of Armenia, and offered his own words, of sympathy on behalf of the entire delegation from the Republic of Armenia. Mrs. Simone then read telegrams of condolence from President Bill Clinton of the United States and President Levon Ter Petrosian of Armenia.

Telegrams were also announced from His Beatitude Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, and His Beatitude Karekin Kazanjian, Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul), which were among the thousands receive from dignitaries and common folk from all over the world. Archbishop Karekin Nersesian of the diocese of Ararat in Armenia give the benediction.

"Today the entire Armenian nation is mourning, as we take part in the funeral services of our Patriarch," said Mr. Haroutunian during his remarks. "Alex Manoogian's death is a tremendous loss not only for the Armenian people. . . . Mr. Manoogian was an epoch-making phenomenon who shaped history. He gave charity a new meaning and new content; he set an example for teaching how to live with one's people and nation. He taught how to impart devotion and love."

The color-saturated interior of the sanctuary, illuminated by shafts of light pouring through the narrow, richly colored stained glass windows and by dim golden lamps sus-

ended from the great parabola arches, was tastefully decorated by large bouquets of white roses with cascading ivy. The black robes and cowls of the numerous clergy stood in stark and solemn contrast to the resplendent, although muted church.

The Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church was conducted by Maestro Khoren Meikhanedjian of New York and accompanied by Mrs. Louise Yardumian of St. Petersburg, FL. Soloists included Ms. Maro Partamian of New York and a quartet comprised of Mrs. Violet Cholakian, Mrs. Arlene Baylerian, Mrs. Denise Karakashian, and Mrs. Barbara Widener of metropolitan Detroit, who sang moving sharagans (hymns) during the funeral service.

Closed circuit television carried the services into the lobby, the chapel, and the nursery of the attached Cultural Building where elegant tables were set up to supplement the 700-seat Cultural Hall from where the ceremonies of the hokejash (memorial meal), served to almost 1,000 persons, were also telecast.

Entombment services, held by the His Holiness the Catholicos and the numerous clergy from Armenia, Europe, and America, took place at Woodlawn Cemetery following the hokejash with only family members in attendance. The casket was covered by earth brought from Armenia by Mr. Haroutunian, and the tomb was sealed by the Catholicos with a cross. The site will be marked by a elegant kachkar (cross-stone) brought from Armenia by the Catholicos.

"No one was invited to the funeral," said the pastor of St. John's, Fr. Baret Yeretizian, "that is not the custom. Everyone, clergy and laity, attended of his own desire out of love and respect for Mr. Manoogian. The funeral and dan gark, attended by 2,000 persons over two days, were a fitting memorial to a great and generous man."

"Mr. Manoogian's genius lay in his determination to resurrect the Armenian people after the genocide of 1915," said Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, a professor of history at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, and a resident of Troy, MI. "to rebuild the Armenian Church, to encourage a free and independent Armenia, to preserve and expand Armenian culture, and to help the Armenian people return to their rightful place in the family of nations and in world history. We have truly lost a great champion of the Armenian people."

"We must also not lose sight of the fact that Mr. Manoogian was a great American. In fact his life was a monumental testimony to the greatness of America. Where else in the world could a man rise from a poor immigrant to a captain of industry, from a homeless boy to a great world-wide philanthropist? Surely Mr. Manoogian represented the American dream, and he never forgot it. He gave to all sorts of American causes. We are all the poorer for his passing. He will be sorely missed."

The pallbearers were Mr. Manoogian's grandsons and nephews: James Manoogian, Richard Manoogian, Jr., David Simone, Mark Simone, Brian Manoogian, Douglas Manoogian, Chris Christo, and Paul Christo.

Security for the various dignitaries in attendance was provided by the Michigan State Police and Masco Corporation. The Parish Council of St. John's Church, along with the Pastor, were active in preparation and administration. Cynthia Oknaian provided coordination with the various groups involved on behalf of the Church.

HONORING JOSEPH DiRENZO, JR.

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Joseph DiRenzo, Jr., a friend, fellow Princeton alumni, constituent, and NCAA referee.

Born and raised in Union City, NJ, Joe DiRenzo graduated from Princeton University, which he attended on scholarship in 1956. While a Princeton he was an All East tight end on the football team. He later played pro football with the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League. He also served in the U.S. Army.

In 1963 he received his first assignment as a collegiate referee. During nearly 30 years as a referee he officiated more than 250 games, including seven bowl games; legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant's last football game; and the famous 1984 game in which Doug Flutie delivered a game-winning "Hail Mary" pass against the University of Miami.

As a referee, Joe DiRenzo displayed both common sense and great mastery of the rules of the game. One of Jose DiRenzo's fellow referees said of him: "He was an outstanding official who has no problem making decisions and was hardly ever criticized by a coach. Joe was a credit to the game of football."

In addition to his officiating career, Joe DiRenzo was a successful executive in several oil and real estate companies. He was a 30-year resident of Severna Park, MD, and had been active in several community organizations.

Joe DiRenzo passed away unexpectedly on September 13. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Cathy, his son, Coast Guard Lt., Joe DiRenzo III, his daughter, Donna Graves, his mother, Emilia DiRenzo, and two grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all of them during this time of sadness.

For myself, I am proud to call Joe DiRenzo my friend and mentor.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CLIFTON HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next month, my friends at the Clifton Heights Fire Department will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Accordingly, I want to pay tribute to these Americans who have put their lives on the line daily to protect the citizens of Clifton Heights, PA.

In 1896, by order of the courts, the Clifton Heights Fire Protection Association and the Clifton Heights Hose, Hook, and Ladder Co. received their charters. For nearly 60 years, the two companies operated separately to provide the citizens of Clifton Heights with superb fire protection. In 1956, putting all rivalry aside, the two companies agreed to disband and join together to form one entity—the Clifton Heights Fire Co.

Since 1956, the Clifton Heights Fire Co. has been one of the best trained and most aggressive companies in Pennsylvania. With support